

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1000
By West

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James R. Cannon of Davidson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James R. Cannon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on April 10, 1927, in Trenton, he was the son of Ree and Opal Cannon; he graduated from Bethel College and Memphis State University and completed his postgraduate work at Purdue and Vanderbilt Universities; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, he holds a position of honor among those gallant Americans who earned recognition as the "Greatest Generation" by responding to the call of duty to defend freedom against fascist enemies during World War II; he served with distinction in the United States Navy aboard the USS *Vicksburg*; and

WHEREAS, during his professional career, Mr. Cannon served with acumen and alacrity as Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work and was recognized nationally in mathematics when he was asked to serve in the Mathematics National Speakers Bureau; and

WHEREAS, after taking a well deserved retirement from that position, he continued his laudable work in education by teaching mathematics at Draughon Junior College, and he was also a licensed realtor; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, he was an active and invaluable member of his community and his profession, having been involved with Metro Nashville Community Education, the American Legion, and Doric Lodge No. 732; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon was well known as a leader of the highest ability and served as Chairman of the Central Council and of the McGavock Community Education Board and as a member of the State Board of Architects and Engineers Examiners, and the Board of Directors of the Donelson/Hermitage Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, he received numerous awards for his personal and professional excellence, including recognition as a Paul Harris Goodfellow by the Donelson/Hermitage Rotary Club and recognition in 2002 for his years of service, wisdom, and dedication to community education in Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he was an active member of the Lincoya Hills Baptist Church, which he served faithfully as a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of Betty Cannon for fifty-four years and was the devoted father of Sherry Phillips, Patsy Pappas, and Cathy James and the proud grandfather of Russ, Nicole, and Natalie Pappas and Arielle James; and

WHEREAS, James R. Cannon leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James R. Cannon, reflecting fondly upon his legacy in education, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Cannon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.